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(Continued from page 286.)

within its ranks the chorus of the Sacred Harmonic Society, and including selections from all the other metropolitan choral societies; the leading professional chorus singers; the two hundred singers of the Bradford Choir; with deputations from many of the leading provincial choral societies and the cathedrals; the musical arrangements being under the direction of the committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society, with Mr. Costa as the conductor, and Mr. Brownsmith presiding at the organ. At three o'clock the concert commenced with the Hundredth Psalm, which was impressively delivered, the whole audience standing during the performance. This was followed by the *Venite exultemus*, to Tallis's Chant, also given with precision and emphasis. Mendelssohn's trio, "Lift thine eyes," was admirably sung by Madame Clara Novello, Miss Palmer, and Mrs. Lockey, and the following chorus was vigorously interpreted. Ample justice was rendered to Costa's chorus from *Eli*, "The Lord is good," and the audience appeared to be greatly pleased with the effect. Then followed Mendelssohn's quartett, "Holy, holy, holy," which was beautifully sung by Madame Clara Novello, Madame Sherrington, Miss Palmer, and Mrs. Lockey. The exquisite beauty of Mozart's motett, "Ave verum," was brought out with the utmost truth and delicacy. The war song from *Eli*, "Philistines, hark!" by Mr. Reeves and the chorus, was a complete and well deserved triumph; Mr. Reeves was in excellent voice, and sang with infinite energy and vigour. At the commencement of the second part the clear and resonant voice of Madame Clara Novello was displayed to advantage in the solo part of Handel's chorus, "Oh the pleasures of the plains," from *Acis and Galatea*. Mendelssohn's part-song, "Oh forest, deep and gloomy," proved to be well-adapted to the locale of the concert: it was sung, as it should be, without accompaniment. All the parts were observed to a nicety, and the *pianos* and *fortes* were marked with good effect. In obedience to the universal demand, the last verse was repeated. Rossini's prayer from the *Mose in Egitto*, accompanied by twelve harps, imparted variety to the selections; and was succeeded by the universal favorite, "See the conquering hero comes; the trio was magnificently sung by Madame Clara Novello, Madame Sherrington, and Mrs. Lockey. Mozart's solo and chorus from *Idomeneo*, "Calm is the glassy ocean," offered a favorable opportunity to Madame Sherrington, who sang it in a highly artistic manner, and was ably supported by the chorus. The prayer from *Masaniello* was given with commendable care and appropriate sentiment. The National Anthem terminated the programme, amidst overwhelming plaudits, a large share being bestowed on the splendid and dramatic manner in which the chief verses were sung by Madame Clara Novello; the exertions of this lady received the most energetic praise from a party of the royal family who were present, as well as from the whole assembly generally.

All the arrangements, both with respect to the comfort of the audience and the convenience of the executants, seemed of a thoroughly satisfactory character, a fact which is in a great measure attributable to the judgment and exertions of the present manager, Mr. Bowley. The number of visitors present amounted in all to 19,874, of whom 14,847, were admitted by tickets, and 5,027 by payment at the doors. The whole of the music, published by Mr. Novello, in a convenient shape, was sold during the performance within the building, and added greatly to the pleasure of all the amateurs present among the audience.

Mr. Benedict's Grand Festival Concert, with 1000 performers, vocal and instrumental, took place on the 16th ult., and attracted a very large audience. The programme comprised some excellent instrumental music, beginning with the overture to *Masaniello*. There was also a triple concerto for three pianofortes, by Miss Arabella Goddard, Mr. Benedict, and Mr. Lindsay Sloper; and a concertante for four violins. The vocal selections included some effective solos, by Miss Stabbach, Miss Louisa Pyne, Madame Weiss, Miss Dolby, and Madame Gassier, and by Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Weiss, and Herr Deck. The choruses were very few, but were well executed. The performance throughout was highly creditable, and was of a character to give general satisfaction to the audience. A similar festival, by the same performers, was fixed to take place on the 30th of July.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes *are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.*

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

Bedford.—The members of the Harmonic Society gave their concert at the Assembly Room on the 14th ult. The performance consisted of the second and third parts of the *Messiah*. The Rev. H. E. Havergal conducted. On this occasion the society engaged the services of Miss Street. Mr. Nann, Mr. Rose, and Mr. Diemer, in addition to the usual amateur instrumentalists, rendered valuable aid. The music was well sung, and the audience was loud in applauding the successful efforts of their fellow townsmen.

Birmingham Musical Festival.—An advertisement in our columns of to-day contains the outline of the intended performances, together with the names of the principal singers who have been engaged by the committee for this approaching musical celebration. In a former notice we drew attention to the programme for the week, and we have now only to remark that the vocal staff selected to do justice to the interesting series of works then detailed appears to be fully equal to the occasion. The soprani are Mesdames Clara Novello, Castellan, and Victoire Balfe; contralti, Mesdames Alboni and Viardot, and Miss Dolby; tenors, Messrs. S. Reeves, Montem Smith, and Tamberlik; basses, Signor Belletti and Mr. Weiss. For the evening performances Signor Ronconi is also engaged.

Birmingham.—The Tonic Sol-Fa Association held a concert in the Music Hall on the 5th of July. The hall was well filled. The music was well performed under the direction of Mr. J. R. Lee. Mr. F. Barnby, organist.

Bow and Mile End Harmonic Society.—On the 29th of June this society gave a performance, the last of the season, at the Music Room, Cottage Grove, Mile End. The programme consisted of two parts: the first being Mendelssohn's 95th Psalm, "O come, let us sing," and the other part comprised a selection from Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, and several glees, &c. The whole of this performance was given in the best style, and most creditably to all concerned in the performance. Mr. Ivimey conducted, and Mr. Prout accompanied on the pianoforte.

Bridlington Quay.—On July 13th, Mr. W. Turner, organist of the Priory Church, gave two concerts at the Victoria Rooms. Miss Maria Wilson, of Hull, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson and Holmes, from the Institution for the Blind, York, were the artistes engaged, and they acquitted themselves with their usual ability.

Chertsey.—The first annual festival of the Choral Association was held on the 29th of June, when a full choral service was performed at the parish church. Mr. Samuel Gee, the musical director to the association, presided at the organ.

Dover.—The Choral Society gave a performance of sacred and secular music on the 29th ult., at the Wellington Hall, under the direction of Mr. E. Barnes. The execution of the music was very satisfactory.

Ebley.—An evening concert took place in the British School on Monday, July 12th. The principal vocalists

were Miss Phelps, with Mr. Hargrave and Mr. Amos Richards, of Glo'ster Cathedral. Mr. Daunsey presided at the pianoforte.

Leeds.—The Leeds musical festival in aid of the funds of the General Infirmary, will be held on the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th of September, under the immediate patronage of Her Majesty. The principal performers will include Madame Clara Novello, Madlle. Picolomini, Mrs. Sunderland, Madame Weiss, Miss Dolby, Miss Palmer, and Madame Alboni; and Messrs. S. Reeves, Giuglini, Weiss, W. Cooper, Winn, Santley, Rossi, and Pialetti; pianoforte, Miss Arabella Goddard; organists, Mr. H. Smart and Mr. W. Spark. The whole will be conducted by Professor Sterndale Bennett. The performances will be—Tuesday, *Elijah;* Wednesday, Haydn's *Seasons*, and *Israel in Egypt;* Thursday, Bach's *Passions Musik*, Beethoven's *Mount of Olives*, and Rossini's *Stabat Mater;* Friday, the *Messiah*. There will be miscellaneous concerts on the evenings of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and Professor Sterndale Bennett's new cantata, "May Queen," will be performed. A new organ, built for the occasion by Messrs. Gray and Davison, will be erected in the new Town Hall.

Llandyssil (Wales).—On the 7th of July a competition meeting took place here, when the prizes were awarded to Mr. David Peters, Mr. E. Hughes, Mr. D. Thoophilas, and Mr. D. E. Jones, and to the Lampeter and Llandyssil choirs. A musical entertainment was given on the 7th of July, by Mr. John Owen.

Newcastle Emlyn (Wales).—Mr. Johnson Ower, (Owain Alaw,) professor of music at Chester, gave his entertainment on the melodies of England, Ireland and Wales, in the National School-room, on the 22nd of July. The audience appeared to be much gratified with the amusement provided for them.

Opera.—The subscription season at Her Majesty's Theatre was brought to a close on the 17th of July, with the opera of *Il Trovatore*. The whole performance was well sustained, and Madlle. Titiens and Signor Giuglini were, as usual, rapturously applauded. A divertissment followed, in which Madlle. Boschetti made a most successful first appearance. Mr. Lumley has since opened the house at reduced prices, in order that the less wealthy of the public might have the advantage of hearing some of those fine performances which have so much gratified the subscribers throughout the season. *Les Huguenots* was given on Tuesday, July 20th; *Don Giovanni* on Thursday, July 22nd; *La Traviata* on Friday the 23rd; and *Lucrezia Borgia* on Saturday the 24th; ending each evening with a ballet.

Royal Academy of Music.—The third and last concert of the season for exhibition of students at the Royal Academy, took place at the rooms of the institution, in Tenterden Street, on Tuesday, the 13th of July. Amongst the MS. compositions particularly to be noticed were two movements from symphony in G minor, by Mr. J. B. Turner (pupil of Mr. G. A. Macfarren), which gives evidence of originality and considerable orchestral skill; and an overture by Mr. Sullivan (pupil of Mr. J. Goss), the young gentleman who gained the Mendelssohn scholarship; besides several other interesting pieces.

Skipton.—The Brousil Family, engaged by Mr. Watson, gave two concerts, morning and evening, on Tuesday, the 20th ult. The concerts were numerously and fashionably attended, and the performers excited universal admiration by their clever and skilful playing. Miss Megson was the vocalist.

Obituary.—Mr. William Horsley, Mus. Bac., Oxon., one of the patriarchs of English music, died a short time since, at the age of 86. The compositions of Mr. Horsley which are best known to the public consist of glees and part songs; the words of these are chosen with great taste, and the harmony is always rich and delicate. His vocal canons are excellent of their kind. Mr. Horsley's moral worth and uprightness caused him to be respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. It frequently occurs, that letters and papers respecting concerts which have taken place early in the month, do not reach us till the day of publication.

All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL,
IN AID OF THE
FUNDS OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL,
ON AUGUST 31, *SEPTEMBER* 1, 2, *AND* 3, 1858.

PRINCIPAL VOCALISTS.

MADAME CLARA NOVELLO,
MADEMOISELLE VICTOIRE BALFE,
AND
MADAME CASTELLAN.
MADAME ALBONI,
MISS DOLBY,
AND
MADAME VIARDOT GARCIA.

MR. SIMS REEVES, | SIGNOR RONCONI,
MR. MONTEM SMITH, | MR. WEISS,
AND | AND
SIGNOR TAMBERLICK. | SIGNOR BELLETTI.

Organist, MR. STIMPSON.
Conductor, - - MR. COSTA.

OUTLINE OF THE PERFORMANCES.

TUESDAY MORNING.
ELIJAH ... ... Mendelssohn.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.
ELI ... ... Costa.

THURSDAY MORNING.
MESSIAH ... ... Handel.

FRIDAY MORNING.
JUDITH ... (*A New Oratorio*) ... Henry Leslie.
LAUDA SION ... ... Mendelssohn.
SERVICE IN C ... ... Beethoven.

TUESDAY EVENING,—A Miscellaneous Concert,
COMPRISING
OVERTURE ... (*Siege of Corinth*) ... Rossini.
ACIS AND GALATEA (*With additional Accompaniments by Costa*) ... ... Handel.
OVERTURE ... (*Der Freyschutz*) Weber.
SELECTIONS FROM OPERAS, &c.
OVERTURE ... (*Fra Diavolo*) ... Auber.

WEDNESDAY EVENING,—A Miscellaneous Concert,
COMPRISING
SYMPHONY ... (*Jupiter*) ... Mozart.
CANTATA ... (*To the Sons of Art*) Mendelssohn.
OVERTURE ... (*Guillaume Tell*) ... Rossini.
SELECTIONS FROM OPERAS, &c.
OVERTURE ... (*Zampa*) ... Herold.

THURSDAY EVENING,—A Miscellaneous Concert,
COMPRISING
THE SCOTCH SYMPHONY (*In A minor*) Mendelssohn.
SERENATA (*Composed for the occasion of the Marriage of the Princess Royal*) ... ... Costa.
OVERTURE ... (*Alchymist*) ... Spohr.
SELECTIONS FROM OPERAS, &c.
OVERTURE ... (*Euryanthe*) ... Weber.

FRIDAY EVENING—A FULL DRESS BALL.

Parties requiring detailed Programmes of the Performances may have them forwarded by post; or may obtain them on or after the 26th July (with any other information desired), on application to Mr. Henry Howell, Secretary to the Committee, 34, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

J. F. LEDSAM, Chairman.